में उपलब्ध कुल भंडारण क्षमता और स्टाक स्थिति नीचे दी गई है :—

	लाख मीटरी टन
कुल भंडारण क्षमता	33.40
पड़ा हुआ स्टाक	23.30
रिक्त स्थान	10.10

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Restrictions on sugarcane processing

1102. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to do away with the restrictions on sugarcane-processing by the farmers in view of liberalization by closed vaccum pan system;

(b) whether Government propose to hand over ownership of inefficient co-operative sugar mills under bureaucratic control to its shareholders as has been partially done in Punjab; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The present policy of licensing of sugar mills, including the option of delicensing, is under examination.

(b) The matter falls within the purview of the State Governments.

(c) Does not arise.

High Subsidies provided for sugarcane

1103. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High National Level Meeting of Secretaries which was held on the 4th September, 1993, had pointed out that high subsidies provided for sugarcane had helped to build up arrears and discouraged the farmers from growing sugarcane;

(b) if so, whether acording to the Union Ministry, it was pointed out that upto July, 1993 Rs. 149 crores of arrears are still outstanding;

(c) if so, what steps Government had taken to help including clearance of the arrears and also help the sugarcane growers;

(d) whether the Ministry has also set up In-House Growth Centres to eliminate procedural delays in clearing the sugar mill projects; and

(e) what are the efforts that Government have made to help the sugar production in 1993-94 and what is the target set for the production, beginning from October, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) A Conference of Secretaries of State Governments dealing with sugarcane was held on 3rd September, 1993, but no such view emerged during the discussions. Howeaer, concern was expressed in the meeting that farmers in many States are shifting from sugarcane to other more remunerative crops.

(b) The position of cane price arrears in different States was discussed with reference to the latest position.

(c) The Government has taken the following measures for clearance of cane price arrears and also to help the sugarcane growers-

(i) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for 1992-93 season was raised to Rs. 31/- per quintal from the level of Rs. 26/- per quintal prevailing in 1991-92 season.

The SMP for 1993-94 season has been fixed at Rs. 34.50 per quintal. An advance announcement of SMP for 1994-95 season has also been made at the rate of Rs. 37.00 per quintal. All the aforesaid prices are linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent.

(ii) Levy to Free sale ratio was changed to 40:60 for 1992-93 season from the earlier ratio of 45:55.